IN THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheets of drawings include formal Figs. 1-9 and changes to Fig. 1. These sheets, which includes Figs. 1-9, replace the original sheets including Figs. 1-9. Replacement Figure 1 now properly labels element 104.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-17 are pending in this application. The drawings were objected to as failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.84(p)(5). The specification was objected to for an informality. Claims 1 and 17 were objected to for informalities. Claims 1, 4-13, and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. patent 6,733,943 to Finn et al. (herein "Finn"). Claims 2 and 3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Finn in view of U.S. patent 6,821,626 to Davis et al. (herein "Davis"). Claims 14-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Addressing first the objection to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. § 1.84(p)(5), that objection is traversed by the present response.

Filed with the present response are replacement formal drawings for each of original Figures 1-9. Replacement Figure 1 also properly labels element 104, which was inadvertently not properly labeled in original Figure 1. Further, the replacement Figures replace the handwritten text. The replacement Figures are believed to address all the objections to the original drawings.

The specification is amended by the present response to address the objection noted at page 3, line 10.

Claims 1 and 17 are amended by the present response to no longer recite the objected to term "In a".

Addressing now the rejection of claims 1, 4-13, and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Finn, and the further rejection of claims 2 and 3 further in view of Davis, those rejections are traversed by the present response.

Initially, applicants note the claims are amended by the present response to clarify features recited therein. Specifically, the claims clarify structures of the rotary body

including both an under layer and a resin surface layer. The claims clarify that the resin surface layer contacts the under layer and that the resin surface layer includes "a plurality of phases of different resin materials, which include a first phase of a first material configured to strongly adhere to said under layer and a second phase of a second material contacting said first phase and having a higher parting ability". That subject matter is fully supported by the original specification for example at page 18, lines 6-13.

The applicants of the present invention recognized, and with reference to Figure 2 in the present specification as a non-limiting example, that an enhanced operation can be realized if a rotary body includes an under layer 22 and a resin surface layer 23, and such that in the present invention the resin surface layer 23 includes different phases of different materials. Non-limiting examples of such are shown in Figures 3-5 in the present specification. As shown in those Figures, in one construction the resin surface layer includes a first phase of a material that can strongly adhere to the under layer, see for example the materials in Figure 4 of PES+5 wt% of KETJENBLACK and PES+3 wt% of KETJENBLACK, and the PEEK layers in Figure 5. The resin surface layer also includes another phase of a second material that has a higher parting ability, see for example the pure PEA material of Figure 4 and the PFA material of Figure 5.

By utilizing such a structure of a resin surface layer on top of an under layer, enhanced operations in the present invention can be realized.

Each of the independent claims is amended by the present response to clarify claim features. Applicants respectfully submit the claims as currently written clearly distinguish over the teachings in Finn.

The outstanding Office Action references Figure 2 in Finn and column 6, lines 24-36 to disclose a specific composition of the claimed rotary body. However, applicants respectfully submit such teachings in Finn do not correspond to the claimed features.

Finn discloses a structure for example in Figure 5 of a pressure belt 39 that has a three-layer configuration including a substrate 30 with fillers 31, an outer polyomide layer 32 with fillers 35, and an outer release layer 33 with fillers 36. However, Finn does not teach or suggest for example with respect to the outer release layer 33 that the fillers 36 can strongly adhere to an under layer, or that the layer 33 has a higher parting ability. In fact, it would appear to be the case that in Finn the fillers 36 are randomly dispersed even well above any under layer, and thus fillers 36 do not appear to provide any increased adhesive properties to an under layer.

In such ways, the claims as currently written are believed to clearly distinguish over Finn.

Moreover, no teachings in Davis are believed to overcome the above-noted deficiencies in Finn.

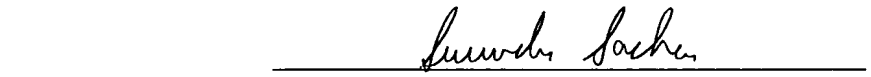
Thereby, the claims as currently written are believed to clearly distinguish over the applied art.

Addressing now the rejection of claims 14-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, those claims are amended by the present response to clarify the recitations therein and to be more properly directed to a fixing method. Further, those claims to recite similar features as discussed above, and thus are believed to also distinguish over the applied art.

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



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